

Guardians of EverBright



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This is a tale of adventure, friendship, and the power of the human spirit. Join our heroes representing the entire epidermolysis bullosa (EB) community on an epic quest to illuminate the world with their courage, compassion, and unity in the face of adversity.

We hope you enjoy this comic, and it helps broaden your understanding of EB and of some of the challenges that people living with EB face every day.

Epidermolysis bullosa (EB)

Epidermolysis bullosa or EB for short, is a group of incredibly painful genetic skin conditions that cause the skin to blister and tear at the slightest touch. People living with EB have skin as fragile as a butterfly's wing, which is why it is also commonly known as 'butterfly skin'.

In the most severe cases EB can be very visible and can affect multiple areas of the body, however in other cases such as with EB Simplex (70% of all cases), it can be less visible and affect only certain areas of the body such as the feet. In every case though, EB leads to excruciating pain and can have a devastating impact on the person's physical and mental wellbeing.



DEBRA is a UK national medical research charity and patient support organisation for people living with all types of EB.

DEBRA's EB Community Support Team works with the EB community and healthcare professionals to provide support services for families and individuals affected by EB which aim to improve quality of life. DEBRA also invests in medical research to secure effective drug treatments for all types of EB.

It is completely free to join DEBRA, and members benefit from access to the EB Community Support Team who offer information, practical, financial, and emotional support, guidance, and advocacy, plus other great member benefits including discounted holidays, member grants, bespoke EB community events, and lots of ways to get involved.

To join DEBRA for free today, please visit
www.debra.org.uk/membership



IT'S LUNCHTIME...



MEET KAI, LAURA, AND GEORGE. THREE ORDINARY KIDS WITH EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE.



YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT FROM THEIR ATTITUDES, BUT THEIR LIVES CAN BE FAR FROM EASY.



I CAN DO THIS. JUST GOTTA PUSH THROUGH THE PAIN.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN, RIGHT? WHO AM I KIDDING THERE'S ALWAYS PAIN.

GEORGE'S TEETH CLENCH AS HIS HAND KNOCKS THE PEN LIDS, SENDING THEM FLYING AND TEARING HIS SKIN.



GEORGE TENDS TO HIS HAND, EMBARRASSED. PEOPLE ALL AROUND ARE STARING, LOOMING LIKE SHADOWS AROUND HIM.



COME ON GEORGE YOU'VE GOT THIS.

IT'S OKAY, WE'RE JUST LIKE YOU. WE CAN HELP.

OUT OF NOWHERE, A CAT LEAPS ONTO GEORGE'S TABLE. IT'S CLEAR THAT THIS IS NO STANDARD CAT.



HEY LOOK! THE COLLAR IS GLOWING.

THE CAT JUMPS OFF AND SCATTERS INTO A DARK ALLEY. THEY QUICKLY FOLLOW AND ONCE SURROUNDED THE CAT SUDDENLY SPEAKS.



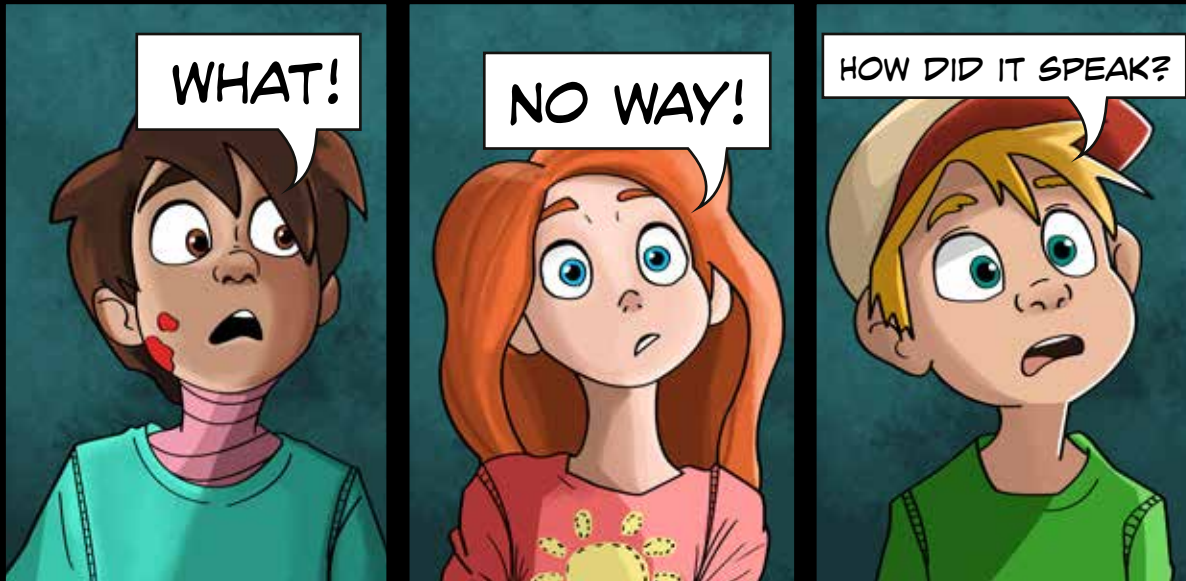
FOLLOW THAT CAT!



LUMOS THE CAT



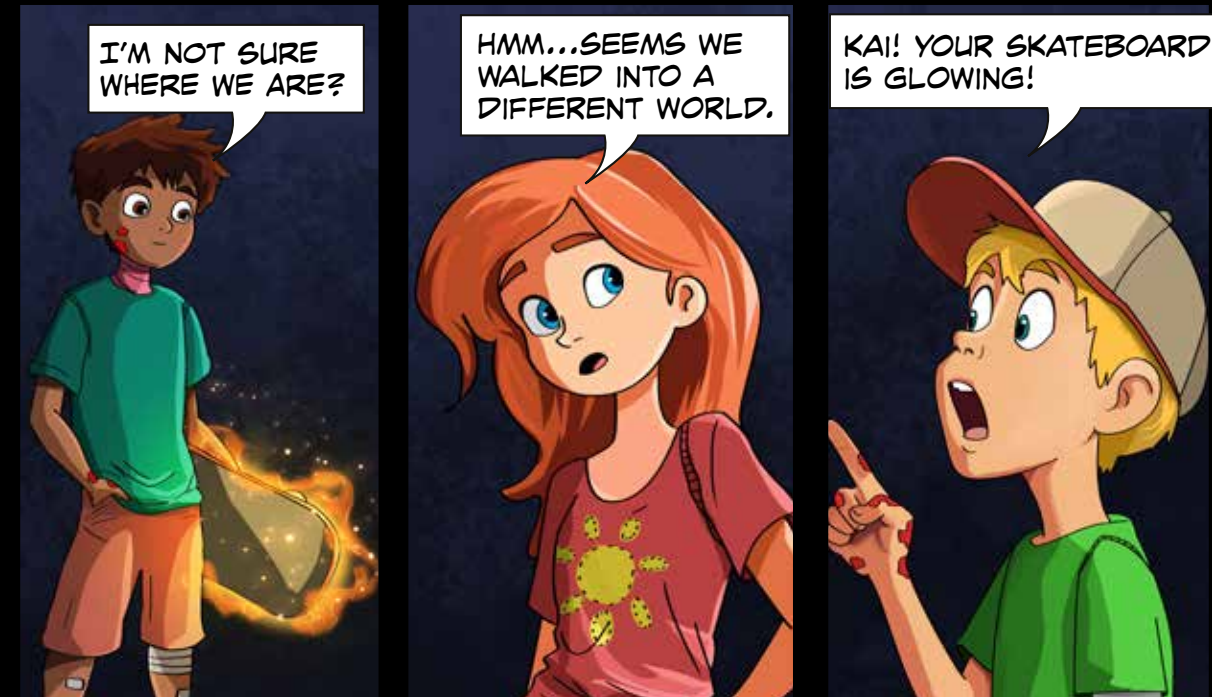
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU. MY KINGDOM NEEDS YOUR HELP.



A SHIMMERING DOORWAY MATERIALISES, BECKONING THEM INTO A MAGICAL WORLD. BUT GEORGE'S WHEELCHAIR IS TOO WIDE! LAURA AND KAI QUICKLY HELP FOLD IT DOWN, DETERMINED TO HELP HIM THROUGH.



AS THEY ENTER, THEIR ORDINARY ITEMS TRANSFORM AND TAKE ON A MAGICAL GLOW. THEY DON'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THEY ARE NOW IN THE LAND CALLED EVERBRIGHT.



THE TRIO STAND AT THE BEGINNING OF A LONG ROAD. THEY THINK THEY'RE ALONE, BUT SUDDENLY SHADOWY FIGURES START APPEARING ALONG THE EDGES OF THE PATH. SOON THEY ARE COMPLETELY BLOCKED IN.

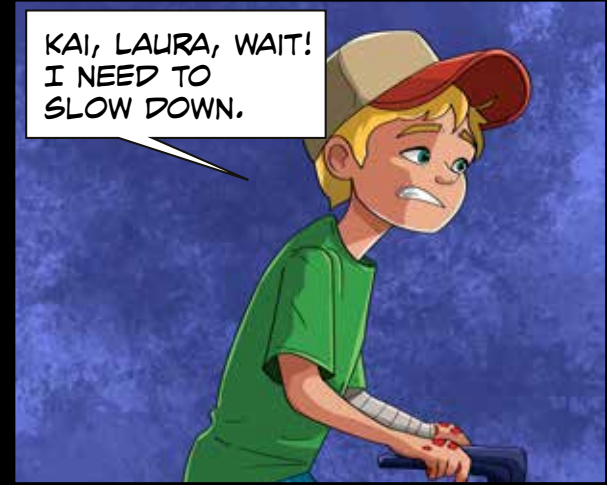


GEORGE, LAURA AND KAI EXCHANGE LOOKS BEFORE STARTING TO RUN...

...BUT BEFORE LONG THEY ARE IN TOO MUCH PAIN AND NEED TO SLOW DOWN.



KAI, LAURA, WAIT!
I NEED TO
SLOW DOWN.



NIGHTFALL, LEADER
OF SHADOWS



LEAVE THIS PLACE!
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.



QUICK!
HIDE!





KAI: THE STARERS AT SCHOOL...

LAURA: THEY STARE WHEN I'M DANCING.

GEORGE: THEY ASK WHY I'M IN A WHEELCHAIR.



WE WON'T LET THEM STOP US.



WE FACE TOUGH CHALLENGES EVERYDAY, I KNOW IT'S HARD BUT LOOK...

SHE POINTS AT THEIR GLOWING MAGICAL SWORD, SHIELD AND BOW... LAURA SHOWS THE OTHERS THEY CAN FIND STRENGTH IN THE THINGS THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT.



WE'RE STRONGER WITH THESE, THEY GIVE US LIGHT - WE CAN USE THEM TO BLAST AWAY THE SHADOWS.

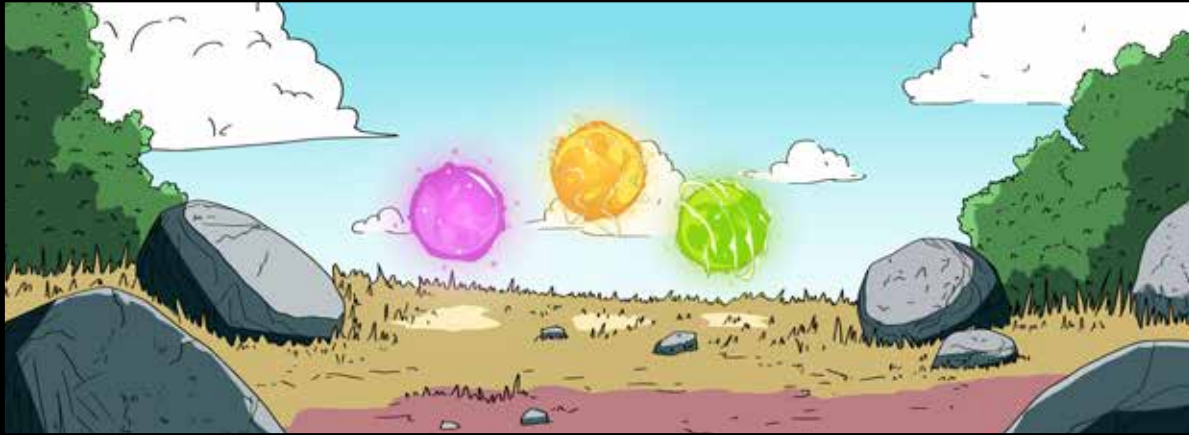
FIGHTING THE PAIN OF HIS BANDAGED HANDS AND SORE FEET, GEORGE RISES FROM HIS CHAIR AND CHARGES FORWARD.



LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

THEY BRAVELY FIGHT THE SHADOWS AND AS THEY DISPERSE, THREE STRANGE GLOWING ORBS FALL TO THE GROUND.





WITH THE SHADOWS DEFEATED, THE ORBS START TO LEVITATE AND MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS KAI, LAURA AND GEORGE. THE ORANGE ORB GOES TO KAI, THE PURPLE ONE TO LAURA AND THE GREEN TO GEORGE.



WHAT NOW?



WHAT DO THESE ORBS MEAN?



THEY'RE YOURS! EACH ORB REPRESENTS YOUR INNER STRENGTHS

UNITY FOR KAI

COMPASSION FOR LAURA

COURAGE FOR GEORGE



SUDDENLY, LAURA NOTICES A SHIMMERING GLOW IN THE DISTANCE, LEADING TOWARDS THE SOURCE OF THE DARKNESS.



THAT MUST BE WHERE WE NEED TO GO.



THEY REACH AN IRON GATE. STANDING BETWEEN THEM AND THE VILLAGE BEYOND IS THE ULTIMATE, MOST FURIOUS SHADOW OF ALL, NIGHTFALL. TOWERING ABOVE THEM, HE LETS OUT A BONE-CHILLING SCREAM.



YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME? HA! YOU'RE WEAK AND I'M STRONG.



WE MAY NOT BE AS BIG AND STRONG AS YOU, BUT WE'RE NOT WEAK.

YOU'RE JUST LOUD AND IGNORANT AND THAT WILL NEVER WIN.

YOUR DARKNESS CAN'T RULE EVERBRIGHT FOREVER!





LOOK OUT!

WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE.



ZAAAAAAAAP

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO BEAT HIM.



GIVE UP! YOU'VE LOST!



WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP! IT'S TIME TO SHINE OUR LIGHT!



LET'S DO THIS, TOGETHER!

USING THEIR COMBINED STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION, THEY OVERPOWER THE DARK SHADOW, BANISHING IT FROM EVERBRIGHT FOREVER.



IMPOSSIBLE...

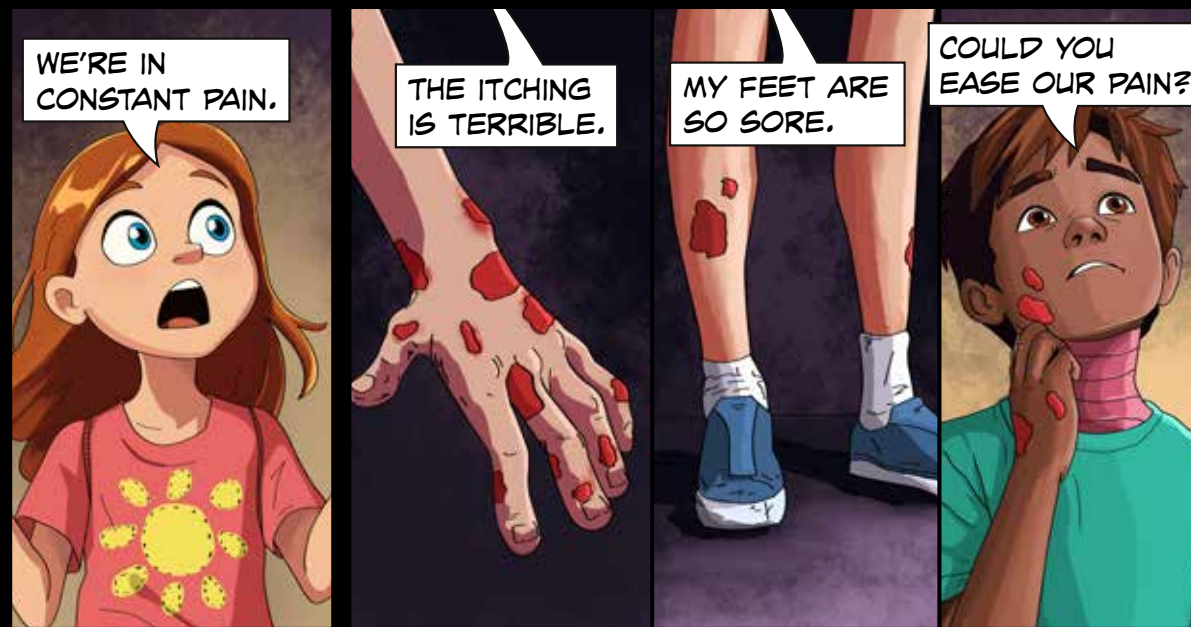


AS THE SKIES CLEAR, AN ASTONISHING SIGHT EMERGES.



I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT! FOLLOW ME. THERE IS SOMEONE I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET.

THE TRIO ARE WEARY AND SORE, AND ASK FOR A MAGICAL REMEDY TO EASE THEIR PAINS.



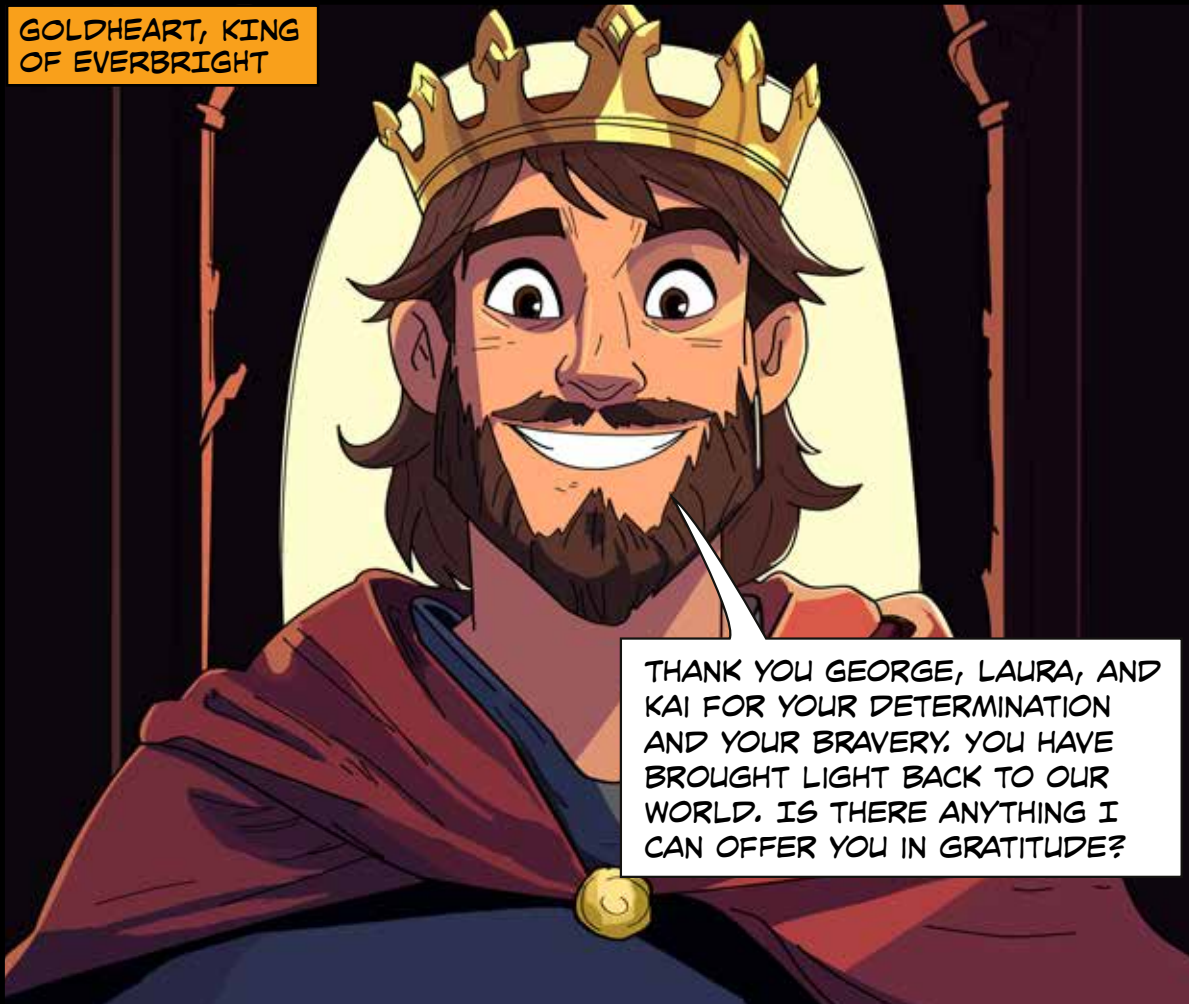
WE'RE IN CONSTANT PAIN.

THE ITCHING IS TERRIBLE.

MY FEET ARE SO SORE.

COULD YOU EASE OUR PAIN?

GOLDHEART, KING OF EVERBRIGHT



THANK YOU GEORGE, LAURA, AND KAI FOR YOUR DETERMINATION AND YOUR BRAVERY. YOU HAVE BROUGHT LIGHT BACK TO OUR WORLD. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN OFFER YOU IN GRATITUDE?



COME INSIDE, THERE ARE WAYS WE CAN HELP YOU.



THEY ENTER A LARGE ROOM WHERE A CROWD OF PEOPLE BRING TEA, DRESSINGS AND COLD WATER SOAKS FOR THEIR FEET. BUTTERFLIES ARE SPRINKLING MAGICAL DUST OVER A FLOWER BED.



THE TRIO REST AND SLEEP, AND WHEN THE SUN RISES THEY STAND BEFORE THE RULER ONCE MORE. THE ENTIRE VILLAGE HAS LINED UP TO SEE THEM OFF.



WE CANNOT CURE ALL YOUR WOUNDS, BUT THIS FLOWER REMEDY AND THESE PEOPLE WILL HELP YOU EASE THE PAIN.



THAT MORNING...

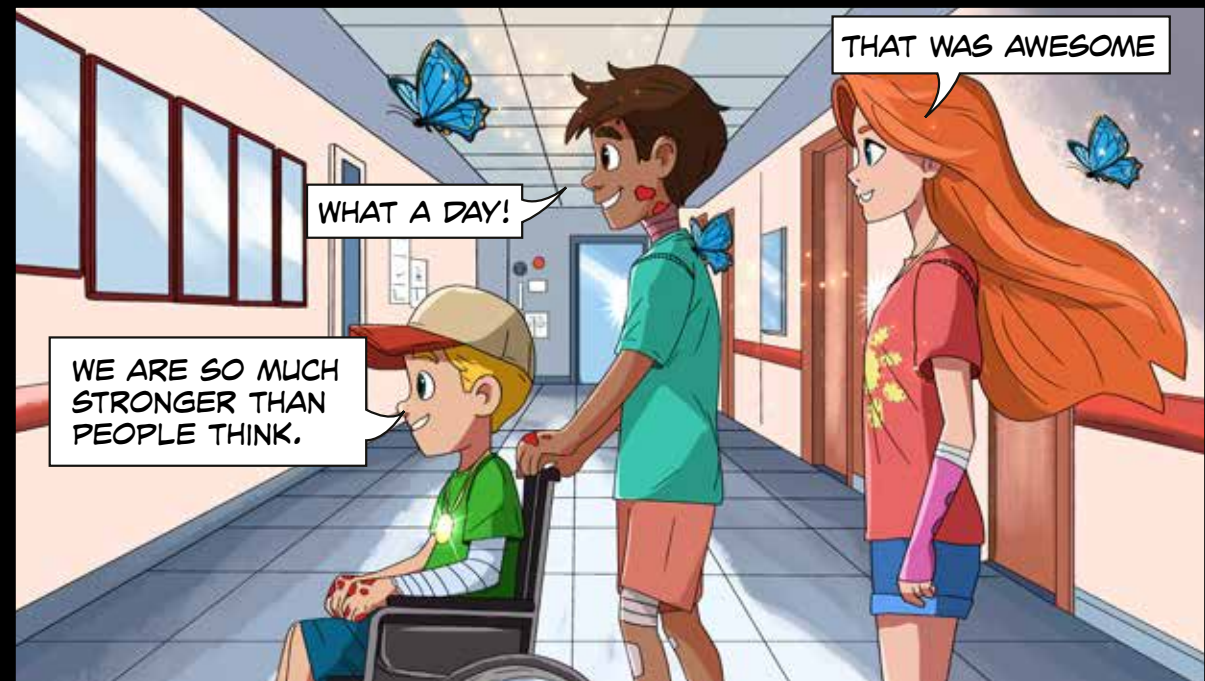


WE HATE TO LEAVE BUT WE MUST GET BACK TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY NOW.



AS A TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE, WE GIVE YOU THESE PENDANTS. THEY CONTAIN A PETAL COATED IN MAGICAL BUTTERFLY DUST. THEY WON'T CURE YOUR PAIN, BUT THEY WILL REMIND YOU OF THE LIGHT AND STRENGTH YOU POSSESS INSIDE.

THE TRIO TAKE THE PENDANT CONTAINING THE MAGICAL FLOWER, THEY ARE UNITED IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST EB. AS THEY PUT IT ON, THEY ARE TRANSPORTED BACK INTO THE REAL WORLD.



THAT WAS AWESOME

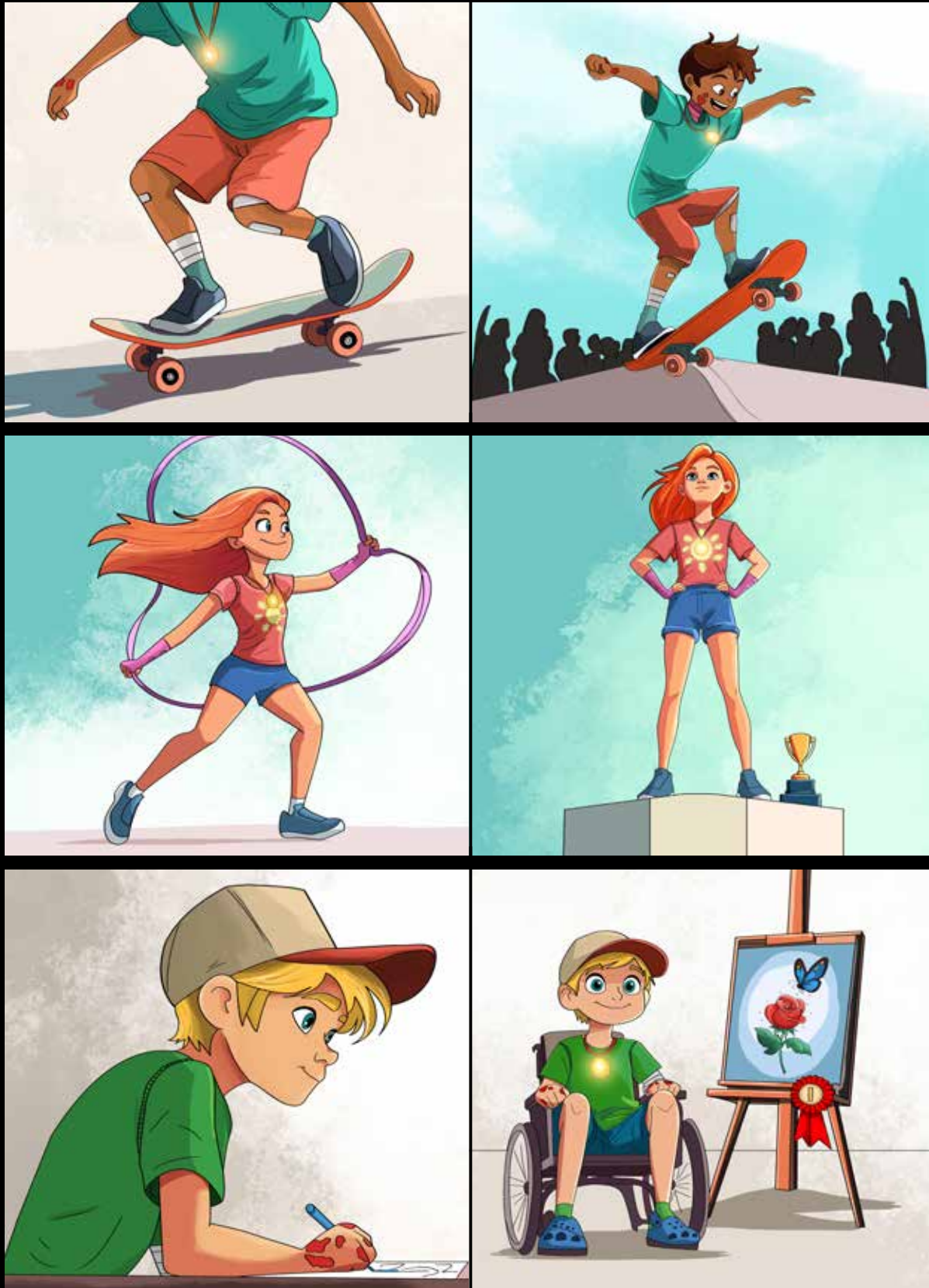
WHAT A DAY!

WE ARE SO MUCH STRONGER THAN PEOPLE THINK.

BACK AT SCHOOL, SOMETHING FEELS DIFFERENT.



OUR HEROES CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS, NOW MORE EMPOWERED BY THEIR EXPERIENCES.



THEIR JOURNEY IN EVERBRIGHT MAY HAVE ENDED, BUT THEIR DETERMINATION REMAINS. LIVING WITH EB IS TOUGH FOR OUR BRAVE TRIO, BUT THEY KNOW THAT WITH THE UNITY OF THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, A LITTLE COMPASSION, AND A LOT OF COURAGE, THEY CAN ACHIEVE ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING THEY PUT THEIR MINDS TO. ADVENTURE AWAITS.





Thank you....

to all the members of the EB community who have contributed and made the research, design, and creation of this comic possible, we hope we've done you proud.

To all the readers, just by picking up this comic, you've supported our cause. One of the best things you can do to support DEBRA, and the EB community is to help raise awareness and understanding of EB.

Through this story, you've got to know three humble heroes living with EB. Their story is based on genuine experiences of EB, with a little embellishment of course! Please tell your family and friends about EB, because the more people who know about it, the more likely we are to get the support we need to make a real difference to every single person living with this cruel condition.

Thank you from the team at DEBRA.

Illustrations and story
created by

PO·sh
CREATIVE